

GAY COLORED GOWNS.

BRIGHT SPRING DAYS TEMPT THEIR OWNERS TO WEAR THEM.

The iridescence of the Opal in the Dress Staffs of the Day—A Costume For Mother That Can Be Worn Any Time—Sleeveless Wraps Are Very Popular.

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The beautiful spring days bring into view the many lovely toilets that were made during Lent or that were held back until the weather grew more settled. The most noticeable of the new toilets are those made of the taffeta silks where the iridescent effects are overlaid with brocade or stripes. The stripes, where the colors are not too brilliant, make really the handsomest gowns. The other day I saw a young lady coming from church, and she wore a dress of striped changeable silk which had as many tints and broke into as many changing colors as an opal. The dress was not large around, just right and touching the ground several inches in the back. There was a bit of a ruffle around the bottom, with a round, bias milliner's fold of the silk for heading.



SPRING GOWNS AND WRAPS.

The young lady wore with this a coat of ribbed silk, black, which, by the way, is very popular just now. The coat was quite tight in the back, but it opened in front over a beaded yoke and a fall of black lace. Narrow but heavy passementerie bordered the whole coat, double revers and all. On the shoulders were two falls of lace, but there were no sleeves to the coat. The dress sleeves were of changeable but not striped silk, the colors matching those in the skirt.

Silk, no matter of what quality or weave, is always beautiful, but it has remained for these changeable effects to show its full capacities. The rich shades, the broken lines and unexpected revelations of color as the silk creases and folds, all make of the chameleon silks the ideal. One pattern I saw yesterday had in it everything, and like Cleopatra was a creation of infinite variety. It was changeable, with blue, red, orange and green colors. It was striped with a sort of dusty brown, and it had tiny brocaded epingle dots and was moire over all. Words cannot tell how beautiful it was despite the unusual admixture of colors.

Another elegant church gown for a young lady was of plain shot silk of pale blue and old gold. It was made with three straight flounces bordered and headed with hand embroidery in pale green floss silk, with conventional flower in pale blue between the leaves.

Worn with this was a novel and exceedingly tasteful wrap of black ottoman silk, with jet passementerie and black velvet revers. On the shoulders and around the hips were loops of the silk doubled and trimmed. The wrap was shaped like a basque, but sleeveless.

I have noticed a number of wraps of different shapes made sleeveless, but with a basque more or less pronounced. The style is pretty and graceful and affords a pleasing change from almost a surfeit of short military capes with butterfly



EVENING GOWN WITH PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES.

collars and Austrian cuffs. Almost every one seems to have one of these capes. Let me just mention a few of the favorites. One is a stylish cloth cape with a capuchin hood and a full ruff and cord at the neck and variegated silk tassels at each point.

Then there is an all wool broadcloth in all of the newest spring shades, with the double collar, and a satin frill at the neck beautifully embroidered. These are just to the waist, and some are lined, some pinked and some hemmed and stitched, and all are pretty except the red ones.

The melton capes, with a Medici collar, are very pretty and drossy. They have feather trimming, usually closely curled peacock fues and rich jet passementerie in the front, like deep lapels. They are sometimes black, sometimes in delicate spring shades. Then there is a kersey cloth line of capes, with deep shirred derby collars, and another style where the short broadcloth cape has two



NEAT STYLES.

The child's frock is of navy blue serge trimmed with white braid, the bodice opening on a white serge vest. A very pretty gown in the center is of navy blue diagonal serge, with black silk pipings at the edges, full jabot of changeable blue and fawn silk. The girl's dress on the right is of tan-colored wool, with a round bolero jacket on a full vest of dark green serge; a girle of the serge encircles the waist, the edges of the jacket and bottom of skirt are trimmed with green and gold braid.

others over it, all bound in fine gold lace; and still another style, French broadcloth had a collar made of three frills of very rich ribbon, all black, the front having a deep bow and long streamers of the black ribbon.

The most of these capes were designed for young wearers—that is to say, for women who have not passed their thirties. For older women I found fewer capes. One, however, was very handsome and well adapted to the age of the prospective wearer. There was a full skirt of black camel's hair, with a bias ruffle 3 inches wide around the bottom, headed by a half-inch passementerie. The waist was draped from the shoulder to a point in front, and rows of the narrow passementerie started at the top and ended at the bottom of the point. The sleeves were plain gipet, not very pronounced. There was a military cape to be worn with this, coming a little below the waist and lined with changeable taffeta silk. There was a modest butterfly collar lined with the silk and bordered with the same narrow bead trimming, and the collar was a high turndown bordered with the passementerie.

With this was worn a bonnet of black lace, jet ornament and red haws for the day, and for evening a myrtle green velvet with a compact mass of velvet forgetmenots. For day black unadorned kid gloves, for evening pearl. You see by this that an elderly woman is at liberty to wear a dress like that for almost any ordinary occasion, to church, to the theater, for calling and for carriage, as well as on the street, and there is no reason why it should not be so. The gown is costly enough, quiet and in good taste, and therefore suitable, but for receptions or dinners black or dark silk would be more elegant.

But if mamma looks best in black cashmere or silk, not so her pretty daughter, and she is at liberty to costume herself in all the colors of the rainbow and they as costly as her purse can buy. Witness the lovely daughter in a rainbow striped silk and velvet gown for the dinners, balls and receptions of the second winter. Between the rainbow velvet stripes is changeable silk with all the colors of the sunset sky as it turns from red and gold to leaden blue. Around the bottom she has a band of peacock feathers bordering each edge of a passementerie of white velvet and opal beads. The bertha and belts are of shot velvet purple and gold, which bring out the delicate fairness of the young girl, but would be fatal to a sallow woman.

A hint to young ladies about this gown. You can copy this design in the dainty zephyr gingham or fine woolsens if you so prefer, and use velutina instead of velvet for trimming and leave off the costly foot trimming, and have a gown fully as tasteful and dainty as the original. If it is to be worn in the afternoon as well as evening, it would be well to have the velutina come rather higher in the neck, leaving it V shaped front and back. I have done that myself.

HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.
New York.

PETTY ECONOMIES.

Saving That Saves and Economy That Is Not Worth the Trouble.

It may be because they are rarely accustomed to the handling of much money, and its lavish, use rather frightens them—whatever the cause, it is certain that women, no matter how extravagant in some matters, are almost never wholly so. They have a few economies which they rigidly exercise. These are generally in trivial matters, regarded by their fathers and husbands and brothers as absurd, not to say niggardly. The men, too, have their pet savings. I doubt if there is a human being who, besides his favorite sin and his secret superstition, has not one single and peculiar strain of miserliness.

They are these little, constant acts of self denial, however, that the superior sex scoff at and deride. They would not walk, if overtired, to avoid a car fare, nor go without a needed lunch while shopping, nor strain their eyes in glasses that

did not fit, nor wear boots that had proved uncomfortable because "they are perfectly good and it seems a shame to throw them away."

Such economies as these are mean indeed and the most arrant folly. As "the life is more than moment," it should always be considered first. One's health and strength should be guarded and physical well being placed immeasurably above any sum of money, large or small. To save on essentials is as wrong on the one side as on the other to do what I heard a young girl, whose father was a moderately salaried clerk, once declare was her mode of procedure. "I always throw away my pennies," said she. "They're such a nuisance."

A bright paragraph the other day told the old story with a difference, of a merchant setting two boys to undo parcels and engaging him who did not carefully untie the twine and fold up the paper, "for time, nowadays, is worth more than the scrap of cord and bit of wrapping." It requires a most judicious mind to clearly see in all cases which is more important, the time spent in saving or the thing saved. When it comes to patching pillowcases and darned stockings which are as full of holes as a sieve, there is no such question. Linen and hose are alike so cheap that the hours spent in redeeming what is beyond its usefulness might be better employed in a hundred clamorous ways.

Time is worth a great deal in this era of all improvement, and just there comes the point for due consideration. If by the many littles which "make a mickle" some tangible good can be secured, she is most efficient and praiseworthy who seizes the opportunity. "What a pretty little coat you have, Nanny!" exclaimed a lady to a tiny child making a formal call with her mother. The latter was not overwhelmed with joy at the piping reply. "Yes, and it's made out of papa's old trousers." There was room for honest pride instead of embarrassment, for it was "a pretty little coat" and wore well and served every purpose in spite of its unpromising genesis.

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WOMAN'S WORLD IN PARAGRAPHS.

Lunch Counter For Women—Does Not the World Move?

A wide awake restaurant keeper in New York city—blessings and prosperity crown him!—has established as one branch of his business a lunch counter for women. So far as I know, it is the first of its kind in the world. It is not a free lunch counter, however. Ladies who do not care for a full dinner or luncheon get a hasty bite and pay for what they get without buying either beer or cigars. There is a long counter or table, with a row of high stools in front. A woman perches herself upon one of the stools and orders her coffee and roll or a dainty cup of cocoa and a tea biscuit, or maybe even the fiend dyspepsia's great knock-down argument, a piece of pie. The charges are reasonable, the waiters attentive, everything clean as paradise, and a woman feels no more embarrassment in giving her little order at this nice lunch counter than her husband experiences when he orders his glass of beer and sandwich at a man's lunch counter. The innovation is a success. Ladies wait their turns at the counter. It is a great convenience to business women and those who are shopping, and there ought to be more such lunch counters in all the large cities.

Speaking of pie and lunches reminds me that into a certain restaurant where I used to get dinner there came regularly every evening a woman with a face so sour, despondent and leathery that she was a sight to look upon. You would have thought the last friend she had on earth had just been hanged and she herself was going to the poorhouse next day. Well, I could not tell why she looked so till I saw that every night, month after month, winter and summer, she took for dinner a quarter of restaurant mince pie and a huge cup of the strongest coffee going. Then I knew.

New York mothers now own half of their children. A club of ladies, the Woman's Educational and Industrial union of Buffalo, has been pegging away for years trying to induce the New York legislature to pass a law making mothers joint guardians with the fathers of their children. Other societies and individuals helped in the effort, and at length the law was passed. Governor Flower, that good woman's rights man, approved it at once.

Mrs. G. H. Timpson is a successful undertaker or "funeral director," as is now the fashion to call it, and is in business in New York city in her own name.

In six states of the Union mothers and fathers are the joint guardians of their children. In all the rest the father owns the young ones as absolutely as if their mother was no kin to them. In some of the states he owns the mother, too, precisely as if she were his slave.

There is money, there is health, there is independence, likewise happiness, in small farm culture, flower culture, poultry raising and beekeeping. Women who go into any one or two of these occupations judiciously and perseveringly will be richly rewarded. Of course the place chosen must be convenient to city market. I wonder often why more women do not go into these branches of business. They seem peculiarly adapted to our sex. The taste for the refined and aesthetic in articles that please both the palate and the eye grows with our population, and every year there is greater market for the products above named.

By vote of the authorities of the Swedenborgian church all offices in that denomination are now open to women, and women may be ordained as preachers. Thus the beautiful and spiritual Swedenborgian doctrine works in the hearts of its believers. Some of the gentlest, noblest, sweetest souls I have ever known belonged to this church.

The assistant court dentist in Germany is a woman, Dr. Henrietta Hirschfeld. Of course she came from America. She was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery.

The interior of the California building at the World's fair will be decorated by a woman, Miss Mary Dominis Bates, a San Francisco artist.

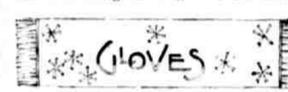
The governor of California has the unique distinction of being the only governor in this Union who has vetoed a bill giving school suffrage to women.

An American lady once told me with a flush of humiliation upon her cheek how, crossing the Atlantic, she made the acquaintance of a delightful English gentleman who was greatly interested in our country. He asked her questions about our soil, climate, productions, city government and mines, also about congress and the United States constitution, not one of which she could answer. When he found she knew nothing, he simply dropped the acquaintance, greatly to her mortification. He had no further interest in her. My friend came home and began to read and study.

ELIZA ARTHUR CORNER.

A Glove Satchet.

A pretty glove satchet is made of a piece of chamois skin 20 by 21 inches. It is lined with a piece of china silk 19 by 20 inches, with a thin interlining of perfumed wadding. Place the lining on the outside so that the longer way of the silk lies the shorter way of the chamois. This will bring the edges of the lining



and the outside even on two opposite sides, while on the other two the chamois extends an inch beyond the silk. Sew the lining on the outside all the way round by machine and fold over the two even edges to the middle, fastening them there to make the two pockets. Cut the chamois skin that projects at each end into narrow strips to form fringe. The decoration on the outside of the satchet is done in gold paint and consists of a band across each end at the head of the fringe and a scattered design of irregular daisies done in outline.

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